GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1216
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Quota for Differently Abled Students
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing education to the differently abled students in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes any reserve quota for differently abled students in Education sector and if so, the details thereof and the total number of such boys and girls, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of total number of such students enrolled in the schools at Primary, Secondary and Higher-Secondary level, separately for boys and girls, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the details of funds spent by the Government on research technology for the differently abled during the last three years and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a programme for universalising elementary education for all children from 6-14 years of age aims to provide inclusive education to all children including differently abled in general schools. SSA ensures that every child with special needs (CWSN), irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided quality inclusive education. This includes special training, in the form of school readiness programmes for CWSN, education through special schools, home schooling and community based rehabilitation.

Similarly, the Government is also implementing the component of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage under Centrally sponsored scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan with an objective to enable all students with disabilities who have completed eight years elementary education, an opportunity to complete four years of secondary schooling (Class IX to XII).

The University Grant Commission (UGC) has implemented a scheme called Higher education for Persons with Special needs which is basically meant for creating an environment at the higher education institutions to enrich higher education learning experiences for differently-abled persons. Creating awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons, constructions aimed at improving accessibility, purchase of equipments to enrich learning etc. are the broad categories of assistance under the scheme.

(b): The focus of SSA programme is on inclusive education, wherein all differently abled children are given admission in neighbourhood schools. Section 3 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act mandates free and compulsory education to all children from 6-14 years of age in the neighbourhood schools, including differently abled children. As per RTE Amendment Act, 2012 children with disability have also been included in the 25% admission quota given to disadvantaged children in private schools in consonance with Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act. As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 2014-15 Children with special needs (CWSNs) form 1.17 percent of total enrolment at the elementary level. Under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 9260 and 10464 differently abled students have been enrolled in private schools in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure-I.

In terms of the provisions of Section 39 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government shall reserve not less than 3 per cent seats for persons with disabilities. There is a provision for reservation of 3% seats for disabled children in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas. UGC has also issued instructions to all the universities and colleges for providing 3% reservation in admissions for disabled students. The provisions mentioned in RTE Act and Persons with Disabilities Act are enabling legislations and do not restrict reservation for admission of disabled students within 3 per cent quota alone.

(c): Details of total number of differently abled students enrolled in the schools at Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary levels are given at Annexure-II.

(d): Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal ministry for research and development activities related to Persons with Disabilities. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has launched a scheme 'Research on Disability Related Technology, Products and Issues' with effect from 15.01.2015. While no fund was released during the year 2014-15, the details of the

project sanctioned and amount released during the year 2015-16 are as under:-

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Sl. No. Name of the Institute Sanctioned Project Amount Released

(? in lakh)

1. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh Major Research on Study on Somatotype, physical efforts and perception of physical activities in persons with disabilities 3.20

2. Vision Foundation for Development Monitoring the level of disability engagement in selected CSR eligible companies and development of database for being involved in programs of disability department 1.60

3. National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad Development of tool kit for assessing work competency among secondary and pre-vocational students. 0.628

Sexuality education package for persons with intellectuals disability-an introduction manual for parents, care-givers and individuals with intellectuals disability 8.00

Development of Indian Test of Intelligence 16.00

Total 29.428

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